



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA SEEKS NOMINEES TO COMPETE FOR SBIR'S HIGH-TECH TIBBETTS AWARD

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Small Business Administration is seeking nominations for the prestigious Tibbetts Award, given annually to small businesses working in research and development.

Every year, the SBA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program awards national recognition to companies that are "models of excellence" in the area of high technology.

This is the sixth year that SBA is presenting this award, which was named for Roland Tibbetts, who spearheaded creation of the SBIR program. Last year the award was presented to companies and individuals from almost every state in the nation.

Firms, organizations and individuals participating in the SBIR program are invited to review the nomination requirements on the SBA web page www.sba.gov/sbir. The deadline for submitting a nomination is July 27, 2001. This year's presentation will take place October 1-2 in Washington, DC.

Under the SBIR program, small businesses propose innovative ideas to meet the specific research and research and development needs of the federal government. The program also promotes commercialization of the innovations derived from the federal research effort. Federal grants for the research and development proposals are awarded on a competitive basis.

The program encourages small business to explore their technological potential and provides an incentive to profit from its commercialization.

Since its enactment in 1982, as part of the Small Business Innovation Development Act, SBIR has helped thousands of small businesses compete for federal research and development awards. Their contributions have enhanced the nation's defense, protected our environment, advanced health care, and improved our ability to manage information and manipulate data.

The Tibbetts award winners will be selected based on, among other things, the economic impact of the technological innovation, overall business achievement and demonstration of effective collaborations.

Anyone interested in the Tibbetts awards can obtain additional information by contacting their local SBA district office listed in the government section of the telephone book or by accessing the agency's web page at: www.sba.gov/sbir.

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